

made. I am sure my colleagues will join me and thousands of Johnson alumni, in sharing the excitement of 100 years of history. May 17, 1997, Johnson High School Centennial Day, will be proclaimed and celebrated throughout St. Paul.

**MEDICARE ANTI-FRAUD  
AMENDMENTS ACT OF 1997**

**HON. KAREN L. THURMAN**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 24, 1997*

Mrs. THURMAN. Mr. Speaker, today, I am pleased to join with the ranking member of the Health Subcommittee, Mr. STARK, and Messrs. SHAW and DAVIS in introducing the Medicare Anti-Fraud Amendments Act of 1997. We are offering this legislation to weed out unscrupulous providers in Medicare. This bill will not only protect beneficiaries and respectable providers, but also prevent the funneling of needed health care dollars into the hands of health care scam artists.

In the State of Florida, we have had tremendous success in fighting fraud in the Medicaid Program by requiring service providers such as Durable Medical Equipment suppliers, private transportation companies, non-physician-owned clinics, and home health agencies, to post a \$50,000 surety bond in order to participate in Medicaid. The bonding requirement is no obstacle to legitimate providers, but presents a serious roadblock to Medicaid scam artists. Through the bond requirement, Florida has decreased the number of DME providers 62 percent, from 4,146 to 1,565 and home health agencies have decreased 41 percent from 738 to 441; these reductions have had no impact on patient care. In fact, the surety bond requirement helped Florida to identify 49 DME providers who were using post office box numbers to bilk the Medicaid Program.

The problems Florida has identified are not unique to Medicaid. Medicare can clearly benefit from Florida's experience. Our bill requires Medicare to institute the same bonding requirement, a \$50,000 surety bond for DME providers, private transportation companies, clinics that furnish nonphysician services, and home health agencies. In addition, it requires providers to disclose all officers, directors, physicians, and principal partners owning 5 percent or more of the service.

Every Medicare dollar gained by fraudulent providers is a dollar lost for our senior citizens. We must end these scams, and surety bonds are an essential step in this fight.

**INTRODUCTION OF EUROPEAN  
SECURITY ACT OF 1997, H.R. 1431**

**HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 24, 1997*

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce today the European Security Act of 1997, H.R. 1431.

The purpose of this bill is twofold. First, it is designed to carry forward the work we began

2 years ago in the Contract With America advancing two of our top national security priorities: NATO enlargement and ballistic missile defense.

Second, it is intended to show that, contrary to the conventional wisdom, both of these important objectives can be achieved without disrupting relations with Russia.

NATO enlargement is a project near and dear to my heart. This is the fourth bill I have introduced on the subject in as many years, and I am pleased to say that the three previous ones were all enacted into law. I hope that our record of congressional support bodes well for the bill we are introducing today.

I believe that the work we have done in Congress has brought the administration and NATO to where they are today on enlargement. The Atlantic Alliance will begin the first round of enlargement this July. The countries we focused on in last year's NATO enlargement legislation—Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic, and Slovenia—are considered the front runners for selection in July.

The bill I am introducing today identifies two problems with the way NATO enlargement is proceeding.

First, we are concerned about the countries that may be left out of the first round of enlargement. We think it is critical that such countries not be left in any security vacuum. These countries must be reassured that they will not be forgotten; that the door to NATO will remain open to them.

Second, we worry that in the rush to mollify Russia, concessions may be made that could jeopardize European security and the integrity and effectiveness of NATO. We are concerned, for example, that new NATO members could be relegated to second-class status. We worry that concessions might be made that could make it impossible for NATO to defend these countries effectively. We must not allow NATO's decision-making structure to be compromised.

To reassure the countries that are not currently front runners for admission, this bill directs the President to designate additional countries to receive NATO enlargement assistance under the NATO Participation Act. Such designation would give them the same status under United States law as Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic, and Slovenia. The bill gives the President 180 days in which to do this.

The bill goes on to express the sense of Congress that Romania, Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania would make good NATO members and should be invited to join as soon as they satisfy all relevant criteria.

Regarding Russia, the bill spells out concessions that we would consider unacceptable. But then it goes on to recognize that, in principle, we should go about enlarging NATO in a manner sensitive to Russia's interests. Accordingly, we approve in concept such undertakings as the NATO-Russia Charter and adaptation of the Conventional Armed Forces in Europe [CFE] Treaty.

To make clear that the purpose of NATO enlargement is not to emasculate Russia—as many in Moscow appear to believe—this bill provides the President the legal authority he has requested to implement the so-called CFE Flank Agreement.

We do this because we know of no better way to demonstrate to Russia that our objec-

tive is not renewed military confrontation between our countries, but friendship. We genuinely believe that NATO enlargement will enhance the security of all countries in Europe, including Russia.

With regard to ballistic missile defense, we also try to demonstrate that our objectives can be achieved in a manner that enhances Russia's security as much as our own. To this end, the bill authorizes a program of ballistic missile defense cooperation with Russia to be carried out by the Department of Defense. This program is authorized to include United States-Russian cooperation regarding early warning of ballistic missile launches from such rogue states as Iran and North Korea, and cooperative research, development, testing, and production of technology and systems for ballistic missile defense.

In addition, the bill includes provisions designed to protect the constitutional prerogative of Congress to approve arms control agreements with Russia bearing on ballistic missile defense.

I look forward to working with my colleagues and the administration toward the prompt enactment of this measure.

**KILDEE HONORS JUDGE KENNETH  
SIEGEL**

**HON. DALE E. KILDEE**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 24, 1997*

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a longtime friend, and lifelong community leader, Judge Kenneth Siegel. On Saturday, April 26, 1997 the Greater Flint Branch of the American Civil Liberties Union will honor Judge Siegel as the "Baltus Civil Libertarian of the Year."

Kenneth Siegel has spent his entire life working on behalf of people who are the most vulnerable in our society. He has spoken out for children and young people, he has helped protect senior citizens, and he made sure that low-income people had equal access and representation in the judicial system.

Kenny Siegel has also consistently defended students rights to protest. When schools try to enforce policies despite student opposition, Kenny Siegel has upheld the student's first amendment rights. It is Ken's deep love and understanding of our country's Constitution that led him to defend the rights of those who are easily forgotten.

Mr. Speaker, Judge Siegel has always tried to ensure that justice was fair for all Americans. That is why every person who appeared before him was treated with dignity and respect. But I believe what always made Kenny such a special judge and person was the time he spent in the community, visiting the churches, meeting with people of all economic, ethnic, and racial backgrounds.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in honoring my dear friend Judge Kenneth M. Siegel. He has made my hometown of Flint, MI, a better place to live, and he has made me, a better person.